



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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For Immediate Release

June 11, 2008

GERMAN-BASED OPERATOR OF SHIP CHARGED WITH FALSIFYING RECORDS

PHILADELPHIA - United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of an Information¹ against Reederei Karl Schlueter GMBH & Co. KG ("RKS"), a ship management company, and Chief Engineer Nikola Ilijic, an officer on a ship operated by RKS, charging that they falsified the Oil Record Book pertaining to the commercial vessel *M/V MSC Uruguay*. Federal and international law requires that all ships follow pollution regulations that include proper disposal of oily water through an Oily Water Separator on board the vessel. Large vessels generate oily water waste when water mixes in the bottom of the vessel (the bilge), with oil leaked and dripped from the machinery and the engines' lubrication and fuel systems. Such oily bilge waste may properly be disposed of by off-loading it to a licensed hauler and disposal facility at port for a fee, or by discharging it overboard after the oil is separated out in the Oily Water Separator. Federal law further requires ships to record accurately each disposal of oily bilge water in an Oil Record Book, and to have the Oil Record Book available for the U.S. Coast Guard within the internal waters of the United States.

According to the Information, on or about January 25, 2008, the *M/V MSC Uruguay* arrived in the Port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, within the internal waters of the United States. Based in part on a letter from some of the crew members of the ship, the U.S. Coast Guard conducted an inspection of the ship and discovered evidence indicating that the *M/V MSC Uruguay* discharged bilge waste directly overboard on or about December 2, 2007, January 3, 2008, and January 4, 2008. The discharges were made using a hose to bypass the vessel's pollution prevention equipment, specifically the Oily Water Separator. The information further alleges that on or about January 25, 2008, the *M/V MSC Uruguay* presented the ship's Oil Record Book to the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Oil Record Book falsely indicated the bilge waste was properly processed through the ship's pollution prevention equipment on December 3, 2007, and January 4, 2008.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Reederei Karl Schlueter GmbH & Co. KG	Rendsburg, Germany	
Nikola Ilijic	Rijeka, Croatia	58 years old

If convicted, the defendant RKS faces a maximum sentence of five years probation, a fine of \$500,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense, and a \$400 special assessment. If convicted, the defendant Nikola Ilijic faces a maximum sentence of six years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the United States Coast Guard, Coast Guard Investigative Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sarah Grieb, and Trial Attorneys Lana N. Pettus and Colin L. Black, at the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Environmental Crimes Section.

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